

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4890

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA WASHDC

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SUBJECT: HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND THE
US

1. THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM HAS RECEIVED LIMITED PRC MEDIA ATTENTION THUS FAR. NCNA HAS GENERATED LITTLE COMMENT OF ITS OWN BUT IT HAS REPLAYED DRVN AND PRG CLAIMS THAT THE US EVACUATION WAS A "FORCIBLE" ONE. THE HONG KONG PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO (WWP) HAS LARGELY FOCUSED ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF THE REFUGEES, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME VIETNAMESE (LARGELY MEMBERS OF THE US-THIEU CLIQUE, THOSE "DECEIVED" BY US-INSPIRED RUMORS, AND PERSONS MERELY SEEKING A TEMPORARY ESCAPE FROM AN ENCROACHING WAR) WOULD WANT TO FOLLOW THE US. BUT, THE PAPER ADDS, SOME VIETNAMESE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL NOW ON GUAM FEEL CHEATED AND ARE REQUESTING PERMISSION TO RETURN HOME.

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2. IN TAKING A WIDER FOCUS, THE WWP HAS CHOSEN TO IGNORE

THE PRESENCE IN HONG KONG OF SOME 4,000 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. ITS SISTER PAPER, THE PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO, HOWEVER, HAS CARRIED A BRIEF NEWS REPORT ON THE MAY 4 ARRIVAL OF SOME 3,000 PLUS VIETNAMESE. THE REPORT, RELEGATED TO A LOWER BACK PAGE, HIGHLIGHTS THE NON-POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE CASE: THE FACT THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE RESCUED AT SEA FROM A SINKING VIETNAMESE SHIP AND ARE BEING GIVEN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION HERE. THE TERM REFUGEE IS AVOIDED AND THE ONLY INDICATION OF THE GROUP'S POINT OF ORIGIN IS THE REFERENCE TO ONE PERSON HAVING BEEN WOUNDED BY GUNSHOTS WHILE BOARDING THE SHIP IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. LOCAL WWP COMMENTARIES ALSO CONTEND THAT THE US IS DECEPTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO UTILIZE THE GOOD NAME OF HUMANITARIANISM TO COVER UP ITS DEFEAT AND AGGRESSION. THE MAIN THRUST IS THAT THE REFUGEE SITUATION WAS CAUSED BY WAR AND DESTRUCTION WHICH WAS CARRIED ON BY THE THIEU GOVERNMENT AND THE US. WITHOUT THE WAR THERE WOULD BE NO REFUGEES AND THUS THIS IS THE COST THE US MUST BEAR.

4. HONG KONG'S RIGHT-WING AND INDEPENDENT PAPERS HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO THE REPORTS OF ARRIVALS OF VARIOUS VIETNAMESE GROUPS. WITH THE MAY 7 CONCLUSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S VISIT TO THE COLONY, THE REFUGEE ISSUE HAS BECOME A MORE PROMINENT NEWS STORY.
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